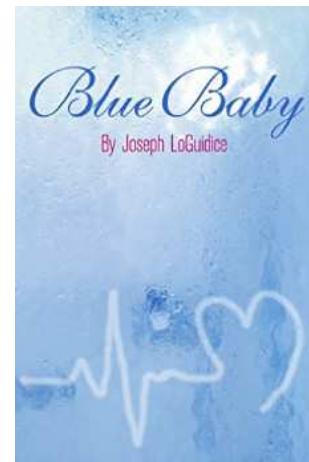


A Review of  
**Blue Baby**  
Joseph LoGuidice (2014)

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient



Be careful when picking up this book. I along with others who have shared their experiences have found the author's story so engaging that the reader tends to get caught up (as in quicksand) with the reading, losing track of time and finishing the relatively quick read (34 chapters and 218 pages) in one day or even one sitting.

The fast paced story alternates between two parallel young lives, along with those of their family and friends, each from the outset challenged in very different ways. Many a reader quickly comes to expect a connection between those two lives even though the characters in the diverse plots never connect for 99% of the book. The author does an amazing job of capturing the inner emotions of his teen girl and boy personalities in both dialogue and inner feelings throughout. I found it hard to read this as the 'novel' it is, the details reading like a real-life story captured in his very well written story and realistic dialogue throughout. But let me put that comment in better perspective. The main character, Maddie, faces a lifelong heart condition from birth, hence the title "Blue Baby." Facing possible death leads up to her teenage ultimate surgery of a heart transplant. As a heart transplant recipient myself with many fellow recipients in my own life experience these past 21 years, I can attest that the author has done an amazingly realistic portrayal of the process and the family challenges dealing with the fears and enormity of that life threatening situation. Each character is developed in that telling, not just the main character, each having to deal with life relationships and the possible loss of a loved one.

I would recommend this as a great read for both adults and teens, and how often do we find a book that fits that broad an audience. I can imagine this as a family reading together where teens and adults share in the story's experience, sharing personal reactions. That family read might even lead to a great family discussion about organ donation with each sharing their wishes to be followed after no longer needing their organs, passing on the gift of life after death.

**Blue Baby** is both a simple read and yet a complex life story which I have to confess left me in tears at the closing climax that while predictable early on, still holds a surprise for the reader. Let me not say more lest I take away any of the enjoyment that I hope you too will find in reading Joseph LoGuidice's delightful story telling which I do hope he will share with us again in some future writing.

**Note:** *Blue Baby* is available in soft cover and Kindle editions at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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**Brief bio:**

Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained online at <http://gleasonjim.com> or on CD by contacting him at [GleasonJim@aol.com](mailto:GleasonJim@aol.com).